

DOCKET FILE 92-235 ORIGINAL

**COALITION OF INDUSTRIAL AND LAND  
TRANSPORTATION RADIO USERS**

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

December 20, 1996

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Mr. William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentation  
PR Docket No. 92-235

Dear Mr. Caton:

The undersigned parties, members of the Coalition of Industrial and Land Transportation Radio Users (the "Coalition"), hereby submit these comments in connection with two of the important, unresolved issues in the re-farming proceeding. In particular, the Coalition addresses herein (1) reliance on a common database in effecting post-consolidation frequency coordination; and (2) the need for coordinator concurrence rather than mere notification.

Background

In its Reply Comments in this proceeding, filed January 16, 1996; the Coalition responded to arguments that the Commission should not mandate use of a common database, but rather allow coordinators to rely on some form of electronic data exchange and merely notify other coordinators of coordinations simultaneous with their transmittal to the Commission. The Coalition wishes to provide new information to the Commission relevant to these issues.

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### Discussion

On Tuesday, December 17, the Land Mobile Communications Counsel ("LMCC") held a meeting, the principal purpose of which was a presentation by Dr. Harry R. Anderson, President, EDX Engineering, Inc. Dr. Anderson's firm has developed prototype software for frequency coordination according to the criteria articulated in the Telecommunication Industry Association ("TIA") Working Group 8.8 Report for a protected service area environment. After describing the various features and functions of the product, Dr. Anderson was asked what sort of database was needed. Mindful of the fact that coordinators use a multiplicity of different databases, he stressed that in order for the software to run on these databases, each one of them had to be uniform in terms of the content of the data needed for coordination and the format in which that data was displayed.

Dr. Anderson further opined that software developers like EDX had little or no interest in attempting to develop software capable of running with multiple different databases.

The lesson in this is important. If the private land mobile community is to be able to successfully implement re-farming, their databases must be uniform with respect to licensee parameters.

In the Coalition's view, the Commission's database could serve as the starting point. However, that database would have to be supplemented in order to reflect applications and pending coordinations, as well as newly-granted licenses. This updating would have to be accomplished by coordinators themselves, who would need to share current data on a more or less continuous basis. Agreement on a common format and content for data elements is essential for such sharing and, as Dr. Anderson observes, for multiple coordinators to be able to use common software. In effect, then, a common database would be created by virtue of the updating process. It is to be hoped that the coordination community will be able to agree on a common format and content so as to be able to realize the benefits of common software and create a virtual common database.

This, of course, does not resolve the separate question of concurrence versus notification. It is the Coalition's view that the Commission must prescribe some minimum period of time (say ten (10) to twenty (20) business days) within which other coordinators in a pool may register an objection to a proposed coordination (with silence being deemed consent if an objection is not timely registered). A system under which an initiating coordinator may simply notify other coordinators in a pool simultaneous with transmitting the application to the

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Commission risks serious harm to incumbents and additional, entirely unnecessary burdens for the Commission and coordinators in dealing with after-the-fact objections to applications.

Unlike the situation at 800/900 MHz (which the proponents of mere notification rely upon), there are no common standards between and among coordinators for Part 90 frequency coordinations. For example, some coordinators use very liberal co-channel separation standards (e.g. only five or ten miles) while others use very conservative standards (e.g. 110 miles). Until the coordination community has an opportunity to develop a consensus on standard coordination criteria (a process which may take many months of actual operating experience post-consolidation), it is imperative that concurrence of "home" coordinators be required in any instance where co-channel licensing is proposed within a set separation distance. Moreover, as a predicate for any such agreement coordinators need to know the outlines of the ultimate consolidation plan. In short the Coalition would urge that the Commission allow an opportunity for the coordination community to attempt to reach an agreement on provisional triggers for requiring concurrences before any consolidation becomes effective. A notice-only system should not be allowed unless and until standard coordination criteria have been adopted.

This principle holds true for exclusive use, as well as shared use, channels. While the TIA 8.8 Report may ultimately be looked upon as setting the necessary standards for exclusive use, the Report is expected to undergo further revision and, in any event, has not been fully tested; moreover, the all-important software necessary to implement the Report's recommendations remains at a prototype level. Hence for exclusive use channels as well, it is entirely premature to allow frequency coordinations based on mere notice only.

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Conclusion

The Commission's database (as supplemented) should be controlling. An effective date for any consolidation should be deferred until the coordination community has had an opportunity to agree on certain key matters. Coordinator concurrences should be made mandatory.

An original and one copy of this letter is supplied for inclusion in the Commission's docket file.

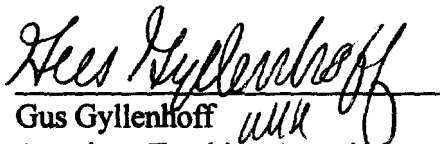
Sincerely,



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